

## THE COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES (CODI)

Citizens and their government working together to make Miami-Dade County a place where people with disabilities can fulfill their greatest potential for independence and achievement.

"CODI is a real asset to the County. It gives the County administration and the board of County Commissioners an important perspective on decisions they must make every day, and it makes valuable recommendations on how County government can better address the needs of people with disabilities". Daniel S. Holder, Director of the Office of ADA Coordination-Miami Dade County

CODI is an official advisory board to the Miami-Dade County Commission. County ordinance requires that all applicants be approved by CODI before being submitted for final selection by the County Commission. That is to ensure that all members of CODI have demonstrated a commitment to the advancement of people with disabilities, that at least half of the members are people with disabilities, and that the membership represents a broad spectrum of people with disabilities, minorities and women

CODI also requires that applicants attend at least two meetings before the membership committee considers them for appointment. Consistent attendance of members is essential. Each County Commissioner appoints one member as his or her representative on CODI for the length of that commissioner's term.

The primary role of CODI is to advise the County Commission on County government issues that affect people with disabilities. The County Commission may refer items to CODI for advice. Alternatively, CODI may choose to forward opinions or recommendations to the Board on issues that it considers important or have members speak before the Board.

CODI also provides advice to the County Manager's Office and to County departments. The County administration or County departments may request opinions from CODI. County staff may be invited to CODI meetings to make presentations, provide information, or discuss issues.

While CODI's primary role is to advise Miami-Dade County, it can, and often does, make recommendations on municipal, state and federal issues.

Although official opinions of CODI must be approved by the full membership, much of the detailed work takes place within the various committees. The Executive Committee is made up of the chairperson, two vice chairpersons and the secretary. The chairperson is elected annually and the other officers bi-annually. The Membership Committee has an appointed chairperson and elected members. Other committees have focused on issues concerning housing, accessibility, transportation, and employment.

## LIAISON: THE OFFICE OF ADA COORDINATION:

The County's Office of ADA Coordination is liaison between CODI, the County Commission and County Departments. It arranges meetings, prepares minutes and correspondence, maintains records, and submits membership nominations to the County Commissioners. It also provides CODI with background information on County government, on federal, state and county laws, and on issues relating to people with disabilities.

## MEETINGS:

Access: All meetings of CODI are open to the public and are held in accessible facilities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or materials in accessible format, are available

by calling the Office of ADA Coordination at voice (305) 375-3566 or TTY: (305) 375-4805, at least five days prior to the meeting date.

Schedule: CODI meets on the first and third Thursday of each month from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM. To check on date, time, or location and / or to confirm your attendance please call the ADA Office or ask to be placed on the CODI e-mail list.

Public Participation: Public input is generally strongly encouraged, but may sometimes be limited. Individuals do not need to be members of CODI to serve on CODI committees

#### WHAT ARE SOME RECENT CODI PROJECTS:

- Providing advice on the design of the multi-million dollar Performing Arts Center and the American Airlines Arena with the concept that they should not just meet minimum ADA requirements but should be welcoming to people with disabilities.
- Providing advice on design for the County Courthouse barrier removal project.
- Providing advice to the County regarding criteria for accessibility to the new busway and to probable destinations.
- Planning for the annual ADA conference and Resource Fair.
- Providing advice to the County regarding accessibility criteria for an ordinance to create Traditional Neighborhoods.
- Working to establish criteria for accessible pedestrian signals.
- Working with the Alliance for Human Services to advocate for funding for disability-related programs and services.
- Working to have Commission meetings closed-captioned.
- Working with the Airport to make it more user-friendly to people with disabilities.
- Working with Public Works to improve sidewalk repairs and curb cuts.
- Working to establish certification for anyone who approves accessibility features on building plans.

#### WHAT HAS CODI ACCOMPLISHED:

The following are some of the many activities and accomplishments of CODI.

- Raised awareness of County Commission members and the County Administration through training on disability awareness, making recommendations, writing reports and position papers, and giving testimony.
- Assisted, through various stages, in the development of the County's Special Transportation System (STS) for people with disabilities.
- Convinced the County Commission to purchase lift-equipped busses even before clearly required to by the ADA.
- Facilitated the creation of accessible housing units in HUD housing.
- Promoted the creation of innovative designs to enhance access to County Parks including beach access, and a ramp into the lake at Tropical Park.
- Participated with the County Public Works Department on various projects to install curb cuts in unincorporated Miami-Dade County, in the City of Miami and on Miami Beach.
- Set priorities for the County's Transition plan to remove architectural barriers in County facilities.
- Assisted in Miami-Dade County's self-evaluation of policies and procedures to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Reviewed Miami-Dade County employment practices, working with Miami-Dade County Personnel and the Office of Fair Employment Practices to improve employment and promotional opportunities for people with disabilities in County Government.

Miami-Dade County Government

Mayor: Honorable Alex Penelas

Board of County Commissioners:

District:

- 1 Betty T. Ferguson
- 2 Dorren D. Rolle
- 3 Barbara Carey-Shuler, EdD.
- 4 Sally A. Heyman
- 5 Bruno A. Barreiro
- 6 Rebeca Sosa
- 7 Jimmy L. Morales
- 8 Katy Sorenson
- 9 Dennis C. Moss
- 10 Senator Javier D. Souto
- 11 Joe A. Martinez
- 12 Jose "Pepe" Diaz
- 13 Natacha Seijas

Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and does not discriminate on the basis of disability. It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Office of ADA Coordination  
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